1918.

Annual Report

AND

VITAL STATISTICS

OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF BUCKLOW

BY

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

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Congleton:

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THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BUCKLOW.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bucklow Rural District Council:

Gentlemen,

This year, again, my Report is limited, at the suggestion of the Local Government Board, to the Tables of Vital Statistics, and a short account of the more important matters relating to the health of the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

March, 1919.

The Rural District of Bucklow.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1918.

PART I.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 4,971.

Average Number of Persons per House, 4·4.

Area of District in Acres 57,642.

Birth Rate per 1,000 living, 14·4.

Death Rate per 1,000 living, 14·0.

Deaths under one year in proportion to 1,000 Births, 62.

The Total Number of Deaths was 284, of which 20 were children under one year old, and 99 were persons of over 65 years.

PART II.—TABLES.

Local Government Board Table I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1918 and Previous Years.

Year.	Gross Population.	Nett Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
			Uncorrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
				Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District	Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1911	22951	21979	417	...	19·0	262	...	38	34	46	110	258	11·7
1912	23262	22290	408	...	18·0	247	...	39	32	23	59	240	10·8
1913	23511	22600	374	...	16·5	258	...	76	30	34	91	212	9·7
1914	23609	22646	414	419	18·5	317	...	93	44	24	57	268	12·3
1915	23486	22462	358	360	16·0	324	...	104	49	39	108	269	12·4
1916	23749	22316	323	331	14·8	385	...	183	41	26	78	243	11·2
1917	23749	22316	324	327	14·6	382	...	200	43	22	67	225	10·4
1918	For birth-rate 22538 For death-rate 20219		320	325	14·4	476	...	192	49	20	62	284	14·0

Local Government Board Table II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1918.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.					Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.												
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Altrincham.	Lymm.	Knutsford.	Wilmslow.	Sale.	
Small-pox	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera—Plague ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	18	...	5	6	4	3	...	...	4	2	8	1	3	16
Erysipelas	9	...	...	...	..	3	4	2	3	3	3	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	29	...	4	24	...	1	...	...	7	...	5	6	11	26
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	..	1	...	2	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	...	...	..	..	..	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22	...	...	6	4	9	3	...	13	...	2	...	7	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	...	...	3	...	1	..	...	2	1	1	...	...	...
Measles	413	17	168	202	19	7	...	...	211	3	139	6	54	...
Totals	500	19	177	241	27	27	7	2	242	9	160	13	76	43

Local Government Board Table III.

Deaths Registered during the Calendar Year 1918 classified by age and cause.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 2 years.	2 & under 5 years.	5 & under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 & upwards.	
All Causes — Certified	284	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All Causes — Uncertified	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Diphtheria and Croup	2	...	...	1	1	..	..	...	...	...
Influenza	52	1	1	4	6	10	19	11	...	7
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	13	...	...	...	...	1	9	3	...	145
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	6
Cancer, Malignant Disease	30	...	..	...	...	...	4	14	12	...
Rheumatic Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	29	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	19	2
Bronchitis	15	2	...	...	...	...	1	4	8	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	24	2	1	3	1	...	3	10	4	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	3	...
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	3	...	..	...	...	2	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	9	1	...	...	2	1	2	2	1	...
Suicide	3	...	...	..	...	1	...	2	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	73	1	3	...	1	1	5	12	50	12
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Totals	284	20	6	8	14	18	50	69	99	172

Local Government Board Table IV.

Infant Mortality.

1918. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes. Certified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
All Causes. Uncertified ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	..	0
Small-pox	...	...	.	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	..	...	2	..	...	...	2
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Premature Birth	4	1	1	1	7	...	...	...	...	7
Atrophy, Debility, & Marasmus...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	..	...	2
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	1
Totals ..	6	2	2	1	11	7	1	...	1	20

Nett Births registered during the calendar year { legitimate 308, illegitimate 17

Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of { legitimate infants 20, illegitimate infants 0

Births 1918.

Rural part of Sub-District of	1st Quarter.				2nd Quarter.				3rd Quarter.				4th Quarter.				Total.			
	M.	F.	Total.	Rate.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate.
Altrincham ...	16	14	30	...	17	12	29	...	15	16	31	...	13	20	33	...	61	62	123	15·4
Lymm ...	7	3	10	...	6	4	10	...	5	3	8	..	7	5	12	...	25	15	40	14·1
Knutsford ...	5	9	14	...	10	7	17	...	6	11	17	...	3	8	11	...	24	35	59	16·1
Wilmslow ...	6	5	11	...	8	6	14	...	5	4	9	...	7	4	11	...	26	19	45	14·9
Sale ...	9	6	15	...	6	8	14	...	12	4	16	...	8	5	13	...	35	23	58	12 5
Total ...	43	37	80	14·4	47	37	84	14·9	43	38	81	14·2	38	42	80	14·0	171	154	325	14·4

Notifications of Infectious Diseases 1918.

Year.	Rare Diseases.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Phthisis.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Measles.	TOTAL.
1890	—	26	5	5	1	2	—	—	—	39
1891	—	28	5	7	—	8	—	—	—	48
1892	—	68	8	18	2	11	—	—	—	107
1893	—	193	18	14	1	14	—	—	—	240
1894	1(*a*)	116	40	7	2	16	—	—	—	182
1895	2(*a*)	39	19	11	3	5	—	—	—	79
1896	—	31	9	19	1	5	—	—	—	65
1897	—	42	3	8	—	6	—	—	—	59
1898	—	19	11	6	—	9	—	—	—	45
1899	—	83	6	7	2	8	—	—	—	106
1900	—	79	8	6	—	3	—	—	—	96
1901	—	120	23	6	—	9	—	—	—	158
1902	—	46	37	6	4	9	—	—	—	102
1903	6(*a*)	52	25	7	—	7	—	—	—	97
1904	—	79	27	2	3	6	—	—	—	117
1905	—	58	31	2	3	14	—	—	—	108
1906	—	75	17	5	1	8	—	—	—	106
1907	—	53	9	4	1	5	—	—	—	72
1908	1(*a*)	65	25	2	2	10	—	—	—	105
1909	—	156	7	41	1	1	—	—	—	206
1910	—	94	14	6	1	8	—	—	—	123
1911	—	70	13	19	2	17	10	—	—	131
1912	—	28	6	2	1	5	32	—	—	74
1913	—	67	16	2	—	6	28	15	—	134
1914	3(*b*)	119	6	1	4	6	25	12	—	176
1915	3(*c*)	67	33	2	2	17	26	9	—	159
1916	4(*d*)	34	22	—	1	4	21	13	227	326
1917	—	16	9	1	1	7	27	14	293	368
1918	2(*b*)	29	18	—	3	9	22	4	413	500

(a) Small-pox. (b) ophthalmia neonatorum.
(c) 1 ophthalmia, 1 poliomyelitis, 1 cerebro-spinal fever.
(d) 3 ophthalmia, 1 cerebro-spinal fever.

Deaths from Special Diseases.

Year.	Rare Diseases.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping-cough.	Enteric Fever.	Diarrhœa.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Phthisis.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.
1890	—	5	1	—	3	3	8	1	1	43	—
1891	—	1	1	1	5	4	6	—	—	40	—
1892	—	13	3	1	7	3	6	2	2	32	—
1893	2(*a*)	3	6	6	1	7	18	1	3	28	—
1894	—	1	4	5	8	1	5	1	3	29	—
1895	1(*a*)	—	2	5	3	4	2	3	1	22	—
1896	—	1	—	6	3	3	4	1	—	23	—
1897	—	16	1	2	1	3	15	—	—	26	—
1898	—	3	1	2	—	2	11	—	—	19	—
1899	—	—	3	1	7	3	16	2	1	29	—
1900	—	—	1	1	8	1	7	—	—	22	—
1901	—	1	2	5	8	2	10	—	1	15	—
1902	—	1	2	7	1	—	1	4	—	10	—
1903	2(*a*)	2	4	7	6	1	8	—	2	18	—
1904	—	1	2	2	7	1	8	1	1	17	—
1905	—	5	4	4	1	1	6	—	—	12	—
1906	—	4	—	4	—	—	11	1	—	15	—
1907	—	1	1	—	2	—	2	—	—	13	—
1908	—	2	1	6	7	—	5	—	—	10	—
1909	—	1	4	—	—	—	3	—	—	14	—
1910	—	3	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	9	—
1911	—	1	—	1	7	—	16	2	—	12	—
1912	—	5	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	15	—
1913	—	2	2	—	4	—	6	1	—	11	8
1914	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	16	7
1915	1(*b*)	2	3	3	3	—	—	1	—	13	6
1916	—	—	1	4	—	—	5	—	1	11	7
1917	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	8	3
1918	—	1	1	1	1	—	2	3	—	13	2

(a) Small pox. (b) cerebro-spinal fever.

Deaths 1918.

Rural part of Sub-District of	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		Total.	
	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
Altrincham	24	—	17	—	13	—	46	—	100	13·7
Lymm ...	6	—	6	—	5	—	8	—	25	8·9
Knutsford ...	9	—	10	—	4	—	22	—	45	13·5
Wilmslow .	12	—	17	—	9	—	13	—	51	18·5
Sale ...	17	—	18	—	9	—	19	—	63	14·9
Total ...	68	13·6	68	13·5	40	7·8	108	21·2	284	14·0

TABULAR STATEMENT OF ~~TOTAL~~ Fatal CASES OF INFLUENZA, 1918.

(For Age Incidence see Table on Page 7).

Rural Part of Sub-District of	Week Ending Mar. 30		Week Ending July 13		Week Ending July 20		Week Ending Oct. 26		Week Ending Nov. 2		Week Ending Nov. 9		Week Ending Nov. 16		Week Ending Nov. 23		Week Ending Nov. 30		Week Ending Dec. 7		Week Ending Dec. 14		Week Ending Dec. 21		Totals		Combined Total (Male and Female
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Altrincham	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	..	1	2	1	3	1	...	...	...	2	1	4	2	1	...	3	12	14	26
Sale ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Wilmslow ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	3	..	...	...	...	3	5	8
Lymm ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Knutsford...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	3	8	11
Totals ...	...	1	2	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	4	2	5	5	2	1	1	4	4	11	2	1	...	3	22	30	52

Annual Report, 1918.

Factories and Workshops. Cow-keepers and Milk-sellers.

Township.	Mr. McKenzie.							Mr. Metcalfe.	
	Factories.	Workshops	Domestic Workshops	Total.	Inspections Made.	Defects Found.	Out-workers.	Cow-keepers.	Milk-sellers.
Agden ...	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	3	2
Ashley ...	—	4	1	5	4	1	—	26	15
Aston-by-Budworth	1	4	—	5	6	—	1	39	9
Baguley ...	—	8	1	9	9	—	—	18	2
Bexton ...	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	5	4
Bollington ...	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	10	6
Carrington ...	—	4	4	8	6	—	—	9	1
Dunham Massey ...	8	16	6	30	40	2	2	37	16
High Legh ...	1	4	3	8	10	—	—	44	12
Marthall ..	3	—	—	3	3	—	—	19	12
Mere ...	3	1	2	6	6	—	—	25	4
Millington ...	—	2	1	3	3	—	—	5	2
Mobberley ...	3	10	8	21	18	—	—	59	36
Northenden ...	5	28	32	70	50	—	5	13	10
Northen Etchells ...	—	4	3	7	10	—	—	13	17
Ollerton ..	—	2	1	3	4	—	—	12	9
Partington ..	6	5	3	14	4	1	—	9	3
Peover Inferior ...	1	3	—	4	2	—	—	7	3
Peover Superior ...	2	4	4	10	10	—	—	27	13
Pickmere ...	—	3	—	3	2	—	—	16	4
Plumbley ...	2	2	3	7	7	—	—	18	6
Ringway ...	1	1	—	2	2	—	—	27	9
Rostherne ...	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	8	4
Styal ...	1	5	2	8	6	—	—	17	12
Tabley Inferior ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Tabley Superior ...	—	4	8	12	6	—	—	22	16
Tatton ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Timperley ...	8	24	5	57	63	4	20	15	8
Toft ..	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	8	4
Warburton ..	1	3	1	5	3	—	—	8	2
	47	146	94	312	290	8	28	524	235

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1918.

The Rural District of Bucklow.

	Nature of Inspections Made.	A Number	B Number of Notices served.		C Result of Service of Notices.			
			Statutory.	Informal.	Notices complied with.	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions. Instituted.	Prosecutions. Pending.
1.	Dwelling Houses (general inspections) ...	152	31	4	29	6	...	...
2.	Cellar Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3.	Back-to-Back Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4.	Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c....	25	...	...	...	...	...	...
5.	Courts, Yards, Passages	1750	...	5	5	...	...	...
6.	Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets, Water C.	2450	4	35	36	3	...	...
7.	Cesspools	75	...	...	...	...	...	...
8.	House Drainage	210	2	12	12	2	...	...
9.	Ditches, Watercourses, &c.	235	..	3	3	...	...	...
10.	Offensive Accumulations	12	...	12	12	...	...	...
11.	The keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	4	...	4	4	...	...	...
12.	Offensive Trades	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
13.	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	,, (Private)	97	...	6	6	...	...	...
	(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold	257	...	..	...	...	...	...
14.	Piggeries	175	...	...	...	...	...	...
15.	(a) Dairies...							
	(b) Cowsheds	524	...	...	...	...	...	...
	(c) Milkshops							
16.	(a) Factories	47						
	(b) Workshops	146						
	(c) Workplaces	95	...	8	8	..	..	...
	(d) Outworkers' Premises	28						
17.	Bakehouses (Overground)	15						
	,, (Underground)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18.	Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
19.	Houses let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20.	Smoke Observations	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
21.	Canal Boats	50	1	2	3	...	...	...
22.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Re-visits ...	649	...	...	...	...	...	...
23.	Miscellaneous	250	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Totals	7251	38	91	118	11	...	...

(Signed) J. McD. McKENZIE.
Acting Inspector and Surveyor.

SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The Scavenging in Dunham Massey and Timperley has been carried out by the Council's own staff of workmen, and in Northenden, Northen Etchells, Mobberley and Styal by contract.

The following is a Table showing work done in each Township during the year :—

Township.	Houses.	Dry Ashpits.	Dust Bins.	Middens.	Pails.	Loads. Dry.	Loads. Privy.
Timperley ...	14045	473	12938	241	1893	787	74
Dunham Massey	9246	269	12056	89	161	716	11
Northenden ...	10628	222	9545	516	33	462	108
Mobberley ...	771	144	12	52	646	29	116
Northen Etchells	1897	—	1819	2	1002	51	26
Styal ...	3933	21	533	47	3601	108	62
Total ...	40520	1129	36903	947	7336	2153	397

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BUCKLOW.

PART III.

Infectious Diseases.—Of these Influenza and Measles call for special comment.

Two epidemics of Influenza occurred during 1918. The first was at its height in the middle of July, and the second in November. In the first epidemic the cases, although very numerous, were generally of a milder type and less liable to serious complications than in the later epidemic. Of fifty-two fatal cases five occurred in the earlier and forty-seven in the later epidemic. Among the Tables in Part II. I have inserted one showing details of both epidemics. School closure was extensively adopted, leaflets of advice were circulated in large numbers, and the incidence and mortality were within the limits experienced by most other affected areas.

During the Measles epidemic 413 cases were notified. This should not be taken to mean that more cases really occurred than in 1917, when 293 notifications were received, as the

apparent increase is probably due to a wider knowledge among parents of the duty of notification and to the fact that much improved arrangements had been made for visiting the infected areas by the Council's Measles Visitors, now two in number. The only fatal case was one of a child aged one month, and even in this case there was reason to regard the measles as only a contributing cause of death.

As Measles often gives a mortality of 2 per cent. in a large epidemic, to have only one death out of 413 cases (at least) must be regarded as satisfactory.

Tuberculosis.—The deaths from Tuberculous disease (all forms) are greater by four, but the number of new cases notified is less by fifteen, as compared with 1917.

Infantile Mortality and Death Rate.—The Infantile Mortality Figure for 1918 is 62 per 1000 births, and compares with 67 for this District in 1917, and with 97 for England and Wales generally in 1918.

The Death Rate is 14 per 1000 persons living, as compared with 10·4 last year, which was, except 1913, the lowest recorded in the District. The increase is accounted for by two causes, as follows :—

There were 59 more deaths in 1918 than in 1917, these almost exactly corresponding to the increase in deaths from influenza and pneumonia, some, if not all of the latter, being due to influenza, and

The Registrar General has supplied the estimates of population on which the death rate is calculated, for the first time, on the plan of reckoning only the civilian population. It would, of course, be unreasonable to transfer all the war casualties to the death statistics of the Districts from which the men enlisted, and possibly the Registrar General's plan is the best that could be devised for these abnormal times, but in so far as it removes from the estimate of our population several thousand healthy young men who, if they had been at home, would have contributed little, if anything, to the death rate, it has the effect of raising the death rate as calculated, and of making comparison of the death rate for 1918 with other years, quite useless.

I wish to place on record my appreciation of Mr. McKenzie's assistance during 1918. He could not have carried out the duties of Surveyor and Acting Inspector so efficiently unless he had devoted himself unsparingly to the work.

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

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